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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

— ASSISTANT SECRETARY —

— A-R/P —

— 6 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RUSSELL:

Subject: State Department organization
with respect to the National
Intelligence Authority.

1. This morning I submitted to you a draft of comments to be transmitted by the Secretary to Admiral Souers with respect to the above. The comments should make it clear at the outset of its organization that the foreign intelligence mission of NIA is to correlate and evaluate all information relevant or pertinent to the national security and our foreign relations; that the resulting intelligence is not "policy" but merely serves as a "handmaiden to the policy function," the responsibility for which remains with those primarily responsible therefor.

2. However, no matter how clearly the NIA charter may be drafted, its intelligence operation is apt to be abused or misused. The only long-range protection against this hazard is organizational in character through proper State representation on the key staff elements of NIA, i.e., the Central Planning Staff and the Central Reporting Staff. In selecting State Department personnel to be assigned to these groups, we should be certain that the interests of the Secretary, as well as those of the Department as a whole, are adequately covered.

3. I therefore recommend that:

- (a) The Secretary designate two persons with the requisite "savvy" and in whom he has complete confidence as members respectively, of the Central Planning Staff and the Central Reporting Staff. They should be able to anticipate and guard against evaluations creeping into the intelligence summaries that are not in accord with State Department policy or improper dissemination of intelligence.

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- (b) The balance of State personnel assigned to NIA should represent the requirements of the Department as a whole. The selection should not be made up entirely of Colonel McCormack's people unless they are acceptable to the Geographic Divisions. With respect to Secret Intelligence, you will be interested in making certain that the Division of Foreign Correlation is able to establish with NIA the appropriate working arrangements as and when its "Central Intelligence Agencies" are organized.
- (c) The Secretary should appoint a standing Intelligence Sub-Committee of the Staff Committee to establish Departmental Intelligence objectives and to coordinate the Department's relations with NIA. The members of the Committee should consist of Messrs. Braden, Dunn (or his alternate), Russell and McCormack. This committee should be served by the Central Secretariat.


J. Anthony Panuch

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